

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, IR, AF

SUBJECT: IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER COMPLETES OFFICIAL VISIT
TO AFGHANISTAN

1. SUMMARY: IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI FOUR-DAY VISIT (AUGUST 27-30) TO AFGHANISTAN APPEARED TO BE LARGELY CEREMONIAL IN NATURE AND IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION EXTENDED DURING PREVIOUS VISIT TO TEHRAN BY AFGHAN PRIME MINISTER DAOUD'S BROTHER MOHAMMAD NAIM. EXCHANGE OF REMARKS ON PASHTUNISTAN ISSUE AND RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN BEING REPORTED BY SEPTEL. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, IRANIAN TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVED DURING FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO CONCLUDE NEW TRANSIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN. END SUMMARY.

2. IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI'S FOUR-DAY VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN, ALTHOUGH LARGELY CEREMONIAL, IS SYMPTOMATIC OF INCREASINGLY CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN. FOREIGN MINISTER SPENT MOST OF HIS VISIT IN OFFICIAL
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DINNERS AND RECEPTIONS PLUS TRIPS TO PROVINCES OF BALKH

AND BAMMIAN. AT BALKH, FOREIGN MINISTER VISITED RELIGIOUS SHRINE OF FOURTH ISLAMIC CALIPH AND TOURED NEWLY-COMPLETED CHEMICAL FERTILIZER AND POWER PLANTS IN CITY OF MAZAR-I-SHARIF COMPLETED WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE. VISIT TO BAMMIAN, WHERE FOREIGN MINISTER SPENT ONE NIGHT, WAS PRIMARILY TO VIEW TOURISTIC AND HISTORICAL SITES IN AREA.

3. ACCORDING AFGHAN PRESS, GOI AND GOA VIEWS ON CONTENTIOUS MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS ISSUES WERE EXPRESSED AS BEING IDENTICAL. IN MIDDLE EAST THIS INCLUDES FAVORING ISRAELU WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS, RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND RESTORATION OF ARAB SOVEREIGNTY OVER JERUSALEM. ON TURKISH INVASIONHOF CYPRUS, PM KHALATBARI IS QUOTED AS CONSIDERING THAT INVASION QUOTE PERTINENT UNQUOTE FOR PRESERVATION OF TURKISH COMMUNITY OF CYPRUS.

4. SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT, IRANIAN TRADE DELEGATION HEADED BY GOI DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DOMESTIC TRADE DAWARI ARRIVED TO CONCLUDE NEW TRANSIT AGREEMENT WITH AFGHAN-ISTAN REPLACING PRESENT AGREEMENT CONCLUDED FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. DETAILS NOT ANNOUNCED AND EMBASSY WILL REPORT SEPARATELY ON NEW AGREEMENT AS MORE INFO BECOMES AVAILABLE.
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